

REMARKS

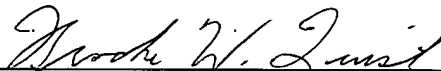
Claims 21-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 have been deleted. New claims 21-54 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing discussions, it is clear that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art. Therefore, consideration and allowance of claims 21-54 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8319. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/17/04

  
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